

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 H-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /040 W

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R 042104 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4205

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR CPRS BF US

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN RECOVERING SUNKEN TREASURE

REF: (A) NASSAU 956, SEPTEMBER 27, 1972;

(B) NASSAU A-325, DECEMBER 12, 1972;

(C) NASSAU A-327, DECEMBER 19, 1972

1. THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM JACK W. KELLY, PRESIDENT OF SEAFINDERS, INC., REQUESTING THE POST'S ASSISTANCE IN THE FIRM'S DISPUTE WITH THE GOBI OVER THE SUNKEN TREASURE DESCRIBED IN REFERENCES. MR. KELLY HAS CALLED AT THE CONSULATE AND ADVISED THAT WHILE THE WRECK MAY WELL BE LOCATED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OUTSIDE BAHAMIAN JURISDICTION, HIS FIRM IS PREPARED TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE MATTER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE GOBI, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO ITS OFFERS. MEANWHILE, THE GOBI CONTINUES TO HOLD THE TREASURE. HE HAS ASKED US TO SPEAK TO THE GOBI MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ABOUT THIS AND URGE THAT HE GO THROUGH WITH HIS AGREEMENT.

2. MR. KELLY REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE ABOUT THIS MATTER, AND SENATOR HENRY BELLMON OF OKLAHOMA IS INTERESTED IN THE CASE.

3. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IF POSSIBLE THE USG SHOULD AVOID BECOMING A PARTY TO THIS DISPUTE, AT LEAST AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS STAGE. MR. KELLY'S PRESENT APPROACH WILL PERMIT THIS AND
HIS REQUEST SEEMS REASONABLE. WOULD THEREFORE PROPOSE TAKING
THIS MATTER UP WITH THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTING UNQUOTE SINCE IT WAS
NOT
CLEAR HOW THE BENELUX WOULD JUSTIFY THEIR UNILATERAL ACTION
TAKEN WITH LITTLE REGARD TO EC PROCEDURES.

4. UNTIL THE MEMBER STATE CONSULTATIONS, MEYNELL WAS HESITANT
TO GIVE ANY COMMISSION REACTION TO THE BENELUX ACTION.
GREENWALD

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
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